



## Being Involved In A Child's Education

### ***What is parent involvement?***

Parent involvement can mean different things, depending on the person. Parent involvement can happen in the home and in the school. In the home, the parent can ask questions about the school day, check on homework daily, read with the child, provide fun learning opportunities, and keep in close contact with the teacher. At school, a parent can volunteer in the classroom, help on a field trip, attend conferences and other events, or serve on the parents as teachers association.

### ***Why is parent involvement important?***

In study after study, researchers have discovered that when parents are involved in their child's education, the child has better academic success. It doesn't matter where one lives, how much money one makes, the ethnicity, culture, or education level of the family. If parents are involved in their child's education, the child earns higher grades in school, does better on state tests, attends school more regularly, is more likely to graduate and go onto higher education; and has better social skills, and higher self-esteem.

### ***What do involved parents do? Involved parents do one or more of the following:***

- Asks their child every day about school and listens to the child's response, prompting conversations about the day.
- Reads to or with their child every day.
- Participates in two-way meaningful communication with the classroom teacher at least once every two weeks.
- Volunteers in the classroom on a regular basis or helps out the class in other ways.
- Speaks to their child regularly about the importance of school and always doing ones best.
- Is selective about the programs their child watches on TV.
- Provides their child with a quiet place to do homework and daily checks on what homework the child has.
- Attends school functions when their child is involved in the program. If work doesn't allow this, an involved parent lets the teacher know he/she won't be able to make it and that he/she will call the teacher after the program to see how it went. The involved parent also lets the child know why he/she can't attend the event and checks with the child how it went.



## Being Involved In A Child's Education (con't)

### *How can I get involved?*

Contact your child's teacher and let him/her know you are interested in becoming a more involved parent. Ask the teacher what you can do to be more involved.

Remember, if your work or family schedule doesn't allow you to volunteer in the school or classroom, there are many other ways you can be more involved.

Parent involvement doesn't stop when your child enters middle school. It is just as important to be involved in your child's education in middle and high school, as it is in elementary school.